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the best reformer in such things ; and that any attempt to anticipate the natural progress of events by institutions arbitrarily adopted, would either be vain, or something worse than vain." They think, however, "that the cause of peace is visibly gaining ground ; that mankind are already become, and will daily become more and more indisposed to sacrifice their comforts and their business to the ambition of governments ; nay, that governments themselves, partaking of the spirit of the times, or dreading its effects, avoid as much as possible, those ruinous contests by which nations are rendered discontented, and rulers more dependent on them, just when suffering and poverty most dispose them to revolt ; and that any war hereafter will throw additional obstacles in the way of future ones." They "heartily concur with the memorialists in recommending a reference to a third power of all such controversies as can safely be confided to any tribunal unknown to the constitution of our country. Such a practice will be followed by other powers, already inclined to avoid war, and will soon grow up into the customary law of civilized nations." The conclusion of the whole is, that they "recommend to the memorialists to persevere" in their efforts to prepare mankind for the establishment of a Congress of Nations, and request themselves "to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject."

The gist of the Report is about this : the object of the memorialists is confessedly very desirable ; but nations are not yet prepared for its accomplishment ; and the friends of peace should, therefore, redouble their efforts to hasten the requisite preparation. We hope the Christian community will take the hint, and increase their efforts in this cause tenfold. Here is, in truth, the hinge of all our hopes.

Mr. Legare's objections may all be included under two heads,—the alleged impossibility of bringing nations into the proposed measure, and its supposed inefficiency for the accomplishment of either its legislative or its judicial purposes. These objections we designed to consider ; but our own remarks will probably be superseded by a document from an able pen which may be expected in a future number.

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#### DISCLAIMER OF THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY.

AN official account of the late *Peace* Convention in this city, is now before the public ; and, as the cause of peace has been by some held responsible for its doings, we deem it our duty as the constituted organs of the American Peace Society, to correct an impression so erroneous.

Our Society, though requested to call the Convention, positively declined doing so, and has had, as a Society, nothing to do with it, except to receive an invitation for its members to attend. Few of them, however, did attend; and most of those who did, either withdrew, or opposed the course pursued, and voted against the leading resolves; nor are we aware, that more than one or two of our number have joined the "*New England Non-Resistance Society*."

Our whole course has been a virtual protest in advance against the principles and aims of this new organization, as entirely foreign from the cause of peace; and in making our present disclaimer, we cannot well use stronger language than that of our own publications for years, as will appear by a slight comparison of our respective principles and objects.

1. *Principles.* They "deny to man the right to hold dominion over man," and assert that "no man, or body of men, have a right to take the life of man as a penalty for transgression;" that "Christianity does not invest man with *any* penal power over his brother;" and that no Christian "can consistently sue a man at law, or acknowledge allegiance to *any human government*," or do aught that shall recognise any species of human government, civil, ecclesiastical, or domestic, as authorized by God.—Such views our Society has repeatedly disclaimed, as entirely foreign from the cause of peace in the common and only proper use of the term.

2. *Objects.* The Convention declare their object to be "the work of peaceful, *UNIVERSAL reformation*," and avow their purpose "to apply their principles to *all* existing *civil, political, legal* and *ecclesiastical* institutions."

Nothing could be further than this from *our* aims. We recognise the existence and powers of civil governments as "ordained of God," and seek merely to regulate their intercourse on Christian principles, without a resort to the sword. We declared, years ago, that "our cause contemplates *only* the intercourse of nations, and does not involve the question concerning the right of a government to punish its own subjects with death, or to put down mobs and insurrections by the sword." The same sentiments we have often repeated, and have said, in our reports and tracts, that "the cause of peace is concerned only with the *intercourse of governments*;" that "*our sole* object is the *peace of NATIONS*; and we hold ourselves *responsible* for nothing beyond this single purpose. We seek *only* to prevent war; and *war* is a *conflict of nations by force*." Our Constitution restricts us to this province; for, after avowing as its object the promotion of "universal and permanent peace," it expressly provides, that "the *object* of this Society shall *never be changed*." We cannot, therefore, seek any other object than "the peace of nations," without annihilating our present organization.

We do not think it incumbent on the Peace Society to oppose this or any other effort at "universal reformation;" but we feel bound to protest against including the doctrines and aims of the late Convention under the sacred name of peace. We can recognise no association for such purposes as a *Peace Society*. It would be a strange abuse of terms; and we are glad to find the new organization called not a *Peace Society*, but a *Non-Resistance Society*, for the avowed purpose of distinguishing it from the cause of peace as commonly understood. It is quite another enterprise, entirely distinct from what *we* have ever taken the cause of peace to be; and these extra-

neous notions are at length embodied in a form which must, we think, compel the public to discriminate between them and our cause; and we trust that the friends of peace through the community will now rally in its support with new energy, zeal and success.

In behalf of the American Peace Society,

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| J. P. BLANCHARD,  | L. T. STODDARD,   |
| H. WARE, JR.,     | JOHN OWEN,        |
| AMASA WALKER,     | JAMES K. WHIPPLE, |
| GEO. C. BECKWITH, | EDWARD NOYES.     |

*Executive Committee.*

Rev. Howard Malcom, one of the Committee, is absent; but his views, we have good reason to believe, accord with those expressed above.

#### PETITIONS TO CONGRESS.

More voices must unite in the demand for a Congress of Nations, before politicians will heed us in good earnest; and we hope that hundreds of petitions for this object with thousands of signatures, will be *spontaneously* sent to Congress at the approaching session. We design to forward a petition signed by our officers in the name of the Society; and we would call upon our friends through the land to join us in this movement, by sending petitions from their respective places. One ought to go from every city, town and village where a single copy of our periodical is taken. The thing can easily be done, if any person of energy will *just see to it in season*; and we know of none that could perform such a service more appropriately or more effectually than the ministers of the Prince of Peace. Our periodical we send to nearly, if not quite, a thousand ministers; and they could, with all ease, procure the transmission of five hundred petitions to Congress. And will they not do it? Can they not, on the day of thanksgiving, preach on this or some collateral subject, and circulate petitions for signatures at the close of the service? It might, we think, be *made* appropriate to the occasion; and, at least, the process of obtaining signatures could there be started in such a way as easily to secure them from all quarters of the town. We would invite ministers and leading members of different denominations to unite speedily in some measure for this purpose. We have no agents to send abroad on this business, and few societies on which to call, as we have not sought to multiply such organizations. We must depend on the spontaneous coöperation of our friends; and, if we have brought any ministers of the gospel under obligation to the cause by sending them the Advocate without charge, we trust they will not deny our request for their special and prompt assistance in this matter.

Whatever is done, should be done in season. Petitions should be ready, if possible, by the first of December, and sent before the close of the month to JOHN Q. ADAMS, or HENRY CLAY, unless the petitioners choose to entrust them with representatives from their respective districts.

To some copies of our present number we attach a brief form of petition; and every person receiving such a copy, will please to regard it as a special request for his services in procuring signatures to the petition.

#### *Receipts from September 15 to October 15.*

|                                                                                       |                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Salem, Mass.,</i> Essex Co. Olive Br. Cir. to con. Dea. Geo. H. Smith, L. M.,..... | \$30 00        |
| For Advocates, &c.,.....                                                              | 10 75          |
| <i>Wayland, Mass.,</i> James S. Draper,.....                                          | 2 00           |
| Other Individuals,.....                                                               | 9 75           |
| <i>Methuen, Mass.,</i> Cong. Soc., by Mr. Spenser, in addition to former payment..... | 7 75           |
| <i>Bedford, Mass.,</i> additional,.....                                               | 5 62           |
|                                                                                       | <u>\$65 81</u> |

☞ We find between \$300 and \$400 due on pledges given to our Society through its agents; and, as the money is much needed *now*, our friends, we hope, will not delay payment longer than is necessary.